

# NEWS RELEASE

## **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

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**DATE: April 12, 2019**

**CONTACT: Stacy Rowe**

## **SUBJECT: Incidental take notice for Sheboygan County**

MADISON – The X97 Transmission Line Rebuild may result in the "incidental taking" of a rare snake under a permit the Department of Natural Resources proposes to issue for the project. Incidental take refers to the unintentional loss of individual endangered or threatened animals or plants that does not put the overall population of the species at risk.

American Transmission Company (ATC) proposes to rebuild the 17-mile X97 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line located in Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties, Wisconsin. The transmission line extends from Cedar Ridge Wind Generation to Kettle Moraine Switch to Mullet River Substation.

The presence of the state endangered eastern ribbonsnake (*Thamnophis sauritus*) has been confirmed in the vicinity of the project site. DNR staff determined that the proposed project may result in the incidental taking of some snakes.

The Department has concluded that the proposed project is not likely to appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival or recovery of the species within the state, the whole plant-animal community of which it is a part or the habitat that is critical to its existence.

The conservation measures to minimize the adverse effect on the endangered species will be incorporated into the proposed Incidental Take Permit. Copies of the jeopardy assessment and background information on the eastern ribbonsnake are available by searching the DNR website for [incidental take public notice](#) or upon request from Stacy Rowe (608-266-7012 or [stacy.rowe@wi.gov](mailto:stacy.rowe@wi.gov)). The department is requesting comments from the public through May 12, 2019 regarding project-related impacts to the eastern ribbonsnake. Public comments should be sent to Stacy Rowe, WDNR, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921 or [stacy.rowe@wi.gov](mailto:stacy.rowe@wi.gov).

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